

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A drug dispenser to be positioned downstream of a drug feeder, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge the accumulated drugs, ~~comprising the drug dispenser comprising:~~

a receptacle having an inner peripheral surface, an open top and a bottom adapted to be opened and closed,

~~wherein at least part of the said inner peripheral surface being is~~ formed by a first movable wall ~~and a second movable wall, each of said first movable wall and said second movable wall being~~ adapted to move when the bottom of the said receptacle is ~~opened, opened,~~ and

~~wherein said first movable wall opposes said second movable wall.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in ~~claim 1, claim 15,~~

wherein the receptacle has a substantially rectangular inner shape with longer sides and shorter sides as seen in a plan sectional view,

the inner peripheral surface comprising a plurality of faces,

at least one of the faces that form the longer sides being the ~~movable wall, closing member,~~

3. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1,

~~wherein each of said first movable wall and said second movable wall is the movable wall being~~ adapted to rotate and ~~having has~~ an arcuate portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1,
wherein the movable wall ~~being situated~~ is provided around a position where the drugs
are expected to be accumulated.

5. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1,
wherein the receptacle comprises an outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle
portion accommodated in the outer receptacle portion,
wherein the outer receptacle portion includes an opening at each of a top and a bottom
thereof, and having an opening at either of its top and bottom,
wherein the inner receptacle portion ~~having~~ includes an opening at one end thereof and a
closure at the other end opposite to the one end ~~and, the inner receptacle portion~~ being invertible
within the outer receptacle portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1,
wherein the receptacle comprises an outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle
portion accommodated in the outer receptacle portion, the outer receptacle portion includes an
arcuate portion at the inner surface thereof and includes an opening at each of a top and a bottom
thereof, and having an opening at either of its top and bottom and an arcuate portion at its inner
surface,
wherein the inner receptacle portion ~~having~~ has an outer surface in substantially
conformity with the arcuate portion of the inner surface of the outer receptacle portion, the outer
surface of the inner receptacle portion having an opening formed at a part thereof, and

~~wherein the inner receptacle portion-being is~~ rotatable within the outer receptacle portion,
~~so portion such~~ that the outer surface of the inner receptacle portion closes the opening at the bottom of the outer receptacle portion when the inner receptacle portion is at a predetermined angular position and ~~such~~ that the opening of the inner receptacle portion is in conformity with the opening of the outer receptacle portion when the inner receptacle portion is at another predetermined angular position.

7.(Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1,

wherein the receptacle comprises an outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle portion accommodated in the outer receptacle portion,

~~wherein the outer receptacle portion includes an arcuate portion at the inner surface thereof and includes an opening at each of a top and a bottom thereof, having an opening at either of its top and bottom and an arcuate portion at its inner surface,~~

~~wherein the inner receptacle portion-having has~~ an outer surface in-substantially ~~substantial~~ conformity with the arcuate inner surface of the outer receptacle portion, the outer surface ~~of the inner receptacle portion~~ having an opening formed at a part thereof, ~~and~~

~~wherein the inner receptacle portion-being is~~ rotatable within the outer receptacle portion,
~~so portion such~~ that the inner receptacle portion is adapted to make at least one and a half rotations in discharging the drugs.

8.(Currently Amended) ~~The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1, further comprising:~~
~~A~~
~~drug dispenser to be positioned downstream of a drug feeder, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge~~

the accumulated drugs, the drug dispenser comprising:

a receptacle having an inner peripheral surface, an open top and a bottom adapted to be opened and closed,

a casing accommodating the receptacle;

an engaging portion normally protruding from and capable of being retracted into the casing; and

a pressing portion for ~~pressing~~ retracting the engaging portion into the ~~casing~~, so casing such that the engaging portion is retracted into the casing when the pressing portion is ~~pressed~~, pressed.

wherein at least part of the inner peripheral surface of the receptacle is formed by a movable wall adapted to move when the bottom of the receptacle is opened.

9. (Original) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a drug supplying section provided with a plurality of drug feeders adapted to send out solid drugs;

the drug dispenser as defined in claim 1 adapted to temporarily accumulate the drugs sent out from the drug feeder and to discharge the accumulated drugs; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser into a predetermined container or wrapping material.

10. (Original) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a plurality of drug feeders vertically and horizontally arranged in a matrix;

a plurality of common passageways each corresponding to at least one column of the drug

feeders;

the drug dispenser as defined in claim 1 positioned downstream of each of the common passageways; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser.

11. (Currently Amended) A drug dispenser to be positioned downstream of a drug feeder, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge the accumulated drugs, the drug dispenser comprising:

a receptacle having an opening at each of a top and a bottom thereof; either of its top and bottom;

a closing member for opening and closing the opening at the bottom of the receptacle; and

a scraper adapted to scrape a part of ~~the~~ an inner surface of the receptacle or a vicinity of the part when the closing member opens the opening at the bottom of the ~~receptacle~~, receptacle,
wherein said scraper and said closing member are discrete structures, said scraper extending away from said closing member.

12. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 11,

wherein the receptacle comprises an outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle portion accommodated in the outer receptacle portion,

wherein the outer receptacle portion having includes an opening at either of its top and bottom, at each of a top and a bottom thereof, and

wherein the inner receptacle portion having has an opening at one end thereof, a closure

and is closed at the other end opposite to the ~~one end,~~ a opening, the inner receptacle portion
including the closing member for opening and closing the opening at the bottom thereof, and ~~a~~
including the scraper, the scraper being adapted to scrape the inner surface of the outer receptacle
portion in accordance with rotation of the inner receptacle portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 11,
wherein the scraper having has a non-circular shape and being is adapted to rotate along
the inner surface of the outer receptacle portion.

14. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 11,
wherein the receptacle comprises an outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle
portion accommodated in the outer receptacle portion,
wherein the outer receptacle portion having includes an opening at ~~either of its top and~~
~~bottom,~~ each of a top and a bottom thereof, and
wherein the inner receptacle portion being is rotatable within the outer receptacle portion
and having has an opening at one end ~~thereof,~~ a closure thereof and is closed at the other end
opposite to the ~~one end,~~ a opening, the inner receptacle portion including the closing member for
opening and closing the opening at the bottom of the outer receptacle portion, and ~~a~~ including the
scraper, the scraper having an arm shape and being rotatable along the inner surface of the outer
receptacle portion.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The drug dispenser as defined in claim 11,~~ A drug dispenser to be
positioned downstream of a drug feeder, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs

from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge the accumulated drugs, the drug dispenser comprising:

a receptacle having an opening at each of a top and a bottom thereof;

a closing member for opening and closing the opening at the bottom of the receptacle;

and

a scraper adapted to scrape a part of an inner surface of the receptacle or a vicinity of the part when the closing member opens the opening at the bottom of the receptacle,

wherein the closing member-being is a linearly movable shutter, and wherein the scraper-being is integrated with the closing member.

16. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

a casing accommodating the receptacle;

an engaging portion normally protruding from and capable of being retracted into the casing; and

a pressing portion for ~~pressing retracting~~ the engaging portion into the ~~casing, so casing~~ such that the engaging portion is retracted into the casing when the pressing portion is pressed.

17. (Original) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a drug supplying section provided with a plurality of drug feeders that are adapted to send out solid drugs;

the drug dispenser as defined in claim 11 adapted to temporarily accumulate the drugs sent out from the drug feeder and to discharge the accumulated drugs; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser into a

predetermined container or wrapping material.

18. (Original) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a plurality of drug feeders vertically and horizontally arranged in a matrix;

a plurality of common passageways each corresponding to at least one column of the drug feeders;

the drug dispenser as defined in claim 11 positioned downstream of each of the common passageways; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser.

19. (Currently Amended) A drug dispenser to be positioned downstream of a drug feeder, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge the accumulated drugs, the drug dispenser comprising:

a receptacle having an opening at either of its top and bottom;

a closing member for opening and closing the opening at the bottom of the receptacle;
and

a scraper adapted to cross within the receptacle when the closing member opens the opening at the bottom of the ~~receptacle~~, receptacle,

wherein the closing member is a linearly movable shutter and wherein the scraper is integrated with the closing member.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 19,

~~the closing member being a linearly movable shutter,~~

the scraper having a sloping side ~~and being integrated with the closing member,~~ so as to cross within the receptacle with the sloping side facing forward in accordance with a linear movement of the closing member.

22. (Currently Amended) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 19, further comprising:

a casing accommodating the receptacle;

an engaging portion normally protruding from and capable of being retracted into the casing; and

a pressing portion for ~~pressing retracting~~ the engaging portion into the casing, ~~so casing~~ such that the engaging portion is retracted into the casing when the pressing portion is pressed.

23. (Original) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a drug supplying section provided with a plurality of drug feeders that are adapted to send out solid drugs;

the drug dispenser as defined in claim 19 adapted to temporarily accumulate the drugs sent out from the drug feeder and to discharge the accumulated drugs; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser into a predetermined container or wrapping material.

24. (Currently Amended) A drug filling apparatus comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of drug feeders adapted to send out solid drugs and arranged vertically and horizontally in a matrix in the main body;

a plurality of common passageways each corresponding to at least one column of the drug feeders;

a drug dispenser positioned downstream of each of the common passageways, the drug dispenser being adapted to receive solid drugs from the drug feeder, to temporarily accumulate the drugs, and to discharge the accumulated drugs through its predetermined opening; and

a drug filling section adapted to fill the drugs discharged from the drug dispenser into a predetermined container or wrapping material,

wherein the drug dispenser comprises a receptacle, a power source and a casing accommodating the receptacle and the power source integrally, the receptacle being adapted to accumulate the drugs, the power source being adapted to open an opening of the receptacle,

wherein the drug dispenser further comprises an engaging portion normally protruding from and capable of being retracted into the casing, and a pressing portion for ~~pressing retracting~~ the engaging portion into the ~~casing, so~~ casing such that the engaging portion is retracted into the casing when the pressing portion is pressed, and

wherein the main body has a plurality of compartments for installing the casing of the drug dispenser therein, ~~the each~~ compartment having an engaging hole or a slot for engaging the engaging portion of the drug dispenser, so as to install the drug dispenser being insertable into the ~~in the~~ compartment with the pressing portion of the drug dispenser pressed to make the engaging portion retracted into the casing, the engaging portion being engaged with the engaging hole or the slot formed in the compartment when the drug dispenser is inserted into the compartment.

25. (Currently Amended) The drug filling apparatus as defined in claim 24,
wherein the casing has a casing connector at its distal end and the main body has a main
body connector in the compartment thereof, and
wherein the engagement hole or the slot ~~extending~~ extends in a longitudinal direction of
the casing, ~~so~~ casing such that the casing connector and the main body connector are connected
by sliding the casing with the engaging portion engaged with the engaging hole or the slot in the
compartment.

26-29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein said first movable wall is
concentric with said second movable wall, and
wherein a peripheral wall connects said first movable wall and said second movable
wall.

31.(New) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein said receptacle comprises an
outer receptacle portion and an inner receptacle portion, said inner receptacle portion being
rotatably disposed in said outer receptacle portion such that a cavity is formed in said receptacle
for accumulating drugs therein, and
wherein said inner receptacle portion includes said first movable wall, said second
movable wall, and a peripheral wall connecting said first movable wall and said second movable
wall.

32. (New) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 5, wherein said inner receptacle portion includes each of said first movable wall and said second movable wall, and

wherein said inner receptacle portion includes a peripheral wall connecting said first movable wall and said second movable wall.

33. (New) The drug dispenser as defined in claim 6, wherein said inner receptacle portion includes each of said first movable wall and said second movable wall, and

wherein said inner receptacle portion includes a peripheral wall connecting said first movable wall and said second movable wall.

34. (New) The drug dispenser of claim 11, wherein said scraper and said closing member are rotatable about an axis of rotation, and wherein said scraper extends away from said closing member in a direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation of rotation.